

REMARKS

Claims 1-60 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to substantially include the subject matter of claims 20 and 21, respectively.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's election of Species III, Figure 10 on which claims 1, 2, 4-5, 9-11, 13-16, 20-27, 32-37, 39-43 are readable.

Claims 1-6 and 8-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Seino *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,361,138; hereinafter "Seino"). Applicant submits the following in traversal of the claim rejections.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable because Seino fails to disclose or suggest an ink cartridge wherein the positioning system contacts the positioning member to align the electrodes with respective contacts in a carriage moving direction in a state in which the electrodes contact the contacts.

In the Office Action, the Examiner argues that Seino discloses a "positioning system located between the ink supply port and the electrodes." Page 4. In the rejection of claim 20, the Examiner states that:

positioning system contacts the positioning member to align the electrodes with respective contacts in at least two directions of a carriage moving direction, a paper feeding direction, and a vertical direction in a state in which the electrodes contact the contacts (figure 4B, reference 43, 45; this is inherent when reference 43 is properly aligned with reference 45 due to the help of the positioning system).

In contrast, there is nothing in Seino which would align the electrodes with respective contact in a carriage moving direction, as previously argued on pages 14-15 of Applicant's Amendment of

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October 7, 2004. There is nothing to indicate that the part labeled by the Examiner as the positioning recessed portion in Fig. 4B, as annotated by the Examiner in the Office Action, would have any sidewalls to restrict the movement of the ink cartridge.

Even assuming *arguendo*, that the space immediately below the part labeled as the upper end wall has some sort of sidewalls, there is nothing to indicate that the part of the carriage disposed at this space would have the necessary width (in the carriage moving direction) to align the electrodes with respective contacts in a carriage moving direction, as claimed.

For reasons similar to those submitted for claim 1, claims 9 and 25 are patentable.

The remaining claims which depend from claims 1, 9 and 25, are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for their respective base claims.

As for the Examiner's allegation that Fig. 4B of Seino is "identical" to Fig. 3 of the Applicant's invention, Applicant respectfully disagrees. For example, in Fig. 3 of the present application, the size of the protruded portion 25 under the circuit board 8 is larger than the part labeled as the guiding protruding portion in annotated Fig 4B. Not only is the protruded portion 25 larger, the gap between the protruded portion 25 and the wall 9a is smaller than the gap between the parts labeled as the upper end wall and the guiding protruding portion of annotated Fig. 4B. The large gap shown in Fig. 4B of Seino does not help to reduce the problems associated with "play" between the ink supply needle and the holder of a carriage, as discussed in the background of the invention of the present application. With the above, Applicant submits that Fig. 4B of Seino is not identical to Fig. 3 of the present invention.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

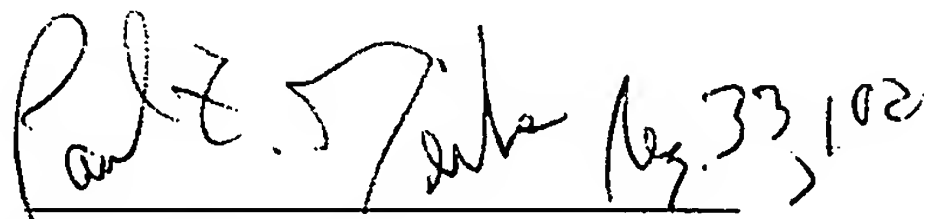
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